



## **Parents' Forum Minutes – Halsford Park School**

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

<b>Attending</b>	Claire Spencer	Headteacher
	Rosie Loftus	Deputy Headteacher
<b>Staff</b>	Amanda Metters	Admin Assistant

<b>Parents/Carers</b>	Ashleigh Salter	Yr2/5
	Emma Pickering	Yr3/1
	Lucy Carey	Yr4
	Michelle Lyon	Yr4/1
	Lou Roach	Yr5
	Lucy Hall	Yr6

#### **How we will be:**

Non-specific (not about individual children/adults).  
Respecting others' opinions.  
Keep it kind.  
Solution focus.  
Non-Repetitive

**Apologies** Emma Farrington, Yr1 Rep

**Meeting Started: 09.05am**

#### **1. How we will be and Terms of Reference**

Mrs Spencer welcomed everybody to the meeting. "How we will be" and the Terms of Reference were reviewed and agreed.

#### **2. Successes of the Term**

##### **Year 3:**

- 2DT assembly was wonderful. It was lovely that all the children had active roles and talked so confidently and proudly about the work they had done.
- Summer Fair. Huge thanks to the PTA for a great family event.
- Sports Day. Wonderfully organised and the children all behaved so well and were supportive and encouraging to each other.
- Year 2 trip. Lovely day. Lady commented in the theatre on how well behaved the children were. Zog was great, but I think they most appreciated having a good amount of time to play together in the park.
- Self Defence Club. Is a positive experience and my child is really enjoying it.

### **Year 6:**

- The Olympics Fabulous Finish was great!
- The children are enjoying the Space and Planet topic.
- The new SATs online programme: Learning by Questions looks really good. (This is personalised practice for SATs in place of the booklets used in previous years. This has again kindly been funded by the PTA.)

### **School Success:**

We are very proud to have gained the Silver level Autism award demonstrating the achievement of good support across the school. The A-Team led by Ms Davies, will attend the awards ceremony. We are now going for Gold!

### **3. School Improvement Plan update**

Mrs Spencer explained and discussed the School Improvement plan (please see attached). The focus for this year again is: *To place every child at the centre of what we do through providing a high-quality education and help prepare every child for opportunities and challenges in life.*

The plan has four sections. In Leadership and Management, Subject Champions will be upskilled to identify any barriers in their subject for specific groups of learners and the plan is to create a planning document for each subject on how best to support them. In Pedagogy and Curriculum, Rachel McFarlane, author of The A-Z of Diversity and Inclusion will be speaking to staff at the next Inset day in November which will inform teaching and learning practice focused on vocabulary. In School and Family Support (SAFS), we are looking at purchasing a EAL programme, which will potentially be funded by the PTA. Under Assessment For Learning, we are looking at how to use pre assessment data to identify and plan to plug specific gaps through adapting our knowledge notes. We currently have 71 EAL (English as an additional language) children in school, with 24 different languages being spoken!

Mrs Durrant (EAL Champion) is developing an Induction programme to assist in-year admissions. This will be the focus of the next Parents' Forum meeting. This was discussed briefly in the meeting, with the following ideas and suggestions:

- Lou Roach advised uniform could be supplied by the PTA if needed.
- Michelle Lyons suggested a parent buddy partnership.
- Emma Pickering asked how best to contact and include EAL families. Social stories for parents were suggested as an idea.

### **4. AOB**

EY

I drop my child off in the mornings and you know there is a long line at the top where we all stand and wait, whilst in that line I'm amazed to see a few parents standing smoking a vape. I can imagine that it's public property and there probably isn't much you can do, I just think it's a little disgusting considering all children here are under the age of 11, I don't think they should be exposed to nicotine and whatever other poisonous chemicals they are having blown in their face.

Year 2

Dogs at the top of the driveway. A couple of parents feel the dogs are too close to the school entrance and are scaring their children, and them. It has been suggested that they could stand to the side of the drive or away from the drive.

Both these issues will be added to the Parent Code of Conduct.

Can the notice board out front be updated with current year info?

What info would you like? Some ideas were discussed in the meeting including:

- QR code for the latest newsletter
- Key dates (from the newsletter, with months in different colours)
- QR code for Amazon wish list
- Donations needed
- Second Hand uniform
- Contact details for groups

Email on Tuesday about school being open after the closure on Monday.

We can absolutely send an email next time round (although we hope that we won't need to anytime soon!)

Year 2 and 3

Asked about school being aware & for view on the smartphone free childhood campaign:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/> There is a parent pact that has been sent around with parents signing up to delay giving kids smartphones until year 9. Think has been sent to all the year group WhatsApp groups.

This is a complex request to navigate, particularly where we might have our own personal viewpoint to contend with as well.

Our policy which clearly captures the school's stance on this which is that mobile phones are not permitted to be used by pupils during the school day. This is a clear deterrent and robust safety measure in itself.

*If your child is walking home from school, they may bring a mobile phone into school if you wish. These will be given to the teacher at the start of the day, locked in the classroom and returned to them at the end of the school day.*

*Please note- mobile phones should not be brought into school if your child/ren are picked up by you either on the playground or near the school entrance.*

*They should only be brought in if you need to communicate with your child because they are walking home. They should not be brought in as an accessory.*

*Children who bring in mobile phones must keep them in their bags once on the school premises (this includes the school drive and playground). Once in school, mobile phones should be handed in upon entering the classroom. Children will be given back their mobile phones at the end of the day on the playground.*

We have already shared in Parent Forum and plan to in a workshop in Autumn 2 the proactive measures already taken as a school by sharing the scope of our online safety / PHSE curriculum. Our clear stance on educating pupils in line with statutory expectations. There is some helpful information in the [statutory guidance for RSHE](#):

*95. Pupils should be taught about the benefits of rationing time spent online and the risks of excessive use of electronic devices. In later primary school, pupils should be taught why social media, computer games and online gaming have age restrictions and should be equipped to manage common difficulties encountered online.*

*116. At the heart of these subjects there is a focus on keeping children safe, and schools can play an important role in preventative education. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) sets out that all schools*

*and colleges should ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including how to stay safe online, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.*

*117. Good practice allows children an open forum to discuss potentially sensitive issues. Such discussions can lead to increased safeguarding reports. Children should be made aware of how to raise their concerns or make a report and how any report will be handled. This should include processes when they have a concern about a friend or peer.*

Year 4

Can the Transition postcards be added to reports?

Might be difficult with timings. We could ensure they are addressed to parent instead of child to prevent them opening them. Teachers and parents to remind!

### **Actions**

1. An EY Rep is needed. Parents/carers to be informed about Parents' Forum at the 4 weeks in Early Years meeting.
2. Michelle Lyons will ask new EY parents for their feedback on the current Induction programme.
3. Bullet points to be added to Parent Code of Conduct regarding vaping and dogs (see AOB).
4. Emma Pickering mentioned how TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars) is bright and flashy. Does the school consider how IT programmes may affect neuro-diverse children? This will be looked into.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 9.05am in the Learning Labyrinth

**Upcoming Focus:** Draft Induction programme for in-year admissions – Mrs Durrant